

tion, and to which it permits the public monies to be applied.

The present consideration of a national establishment for education particularly, is rendered proper by this circumstance also, that if Congress, approving the proposition, shall yet think it more eligible to found it on a donation of lands, they have it now in their power to endow it with those which will be among the earliest to produce the necessary income. This foundation would have the advantage of being independent on war, which may suspend other improvements by requiring for its own purposes the resources destined for them.

This, fellow-citizens, is the state of the public interests, at the present moment, and according to the information now possessed. But such is the situation of the nations of Europe, and such too the predicament in which we stand with some of them, that we cannot rely with certainty on the present aspect of our affairs, that may change from moment to moment, during the course of your session, or after you shall have separated. Our duty is therefore to act upon things as they are, and to make a reasonable provision for what ever they may be. Were armies to be raised when ever a spec of war is visible to our horizon, we never should have been without them. Our resources would have been exhausted on dangers which have never happened, instead of being reserved for what is really to take place. A steady, perhaps a quickened pace, in preparations for the defence of our sea-port towns and waters, an early settlement of the most exposed and vulnerable parts of our country, a militia so organized that its effective portions can be called to any point in the union, or volunteers instead of them, to serve a sufficient time, are means which may always be ready, yet never preying on our resources until actually called into use. They will maintain the public interests, while a more permanent force shall be in a course of preparation. But much will depend on the promptitude with which these means can be brought into activity. If war be forced upon us, in spite of our long and vain appeals to the justice of nations, rapid and vigorous movements, in its outset, will go far towards securing us in its course and issue, and towards throwing its burthen on those who render necessary the resort from reason to force.

The result of our negotiations, or such incidents in their course as may enable us to infer their probable issue; such further movements also, on our western frontier as may shew whether war is to be pressed there, while negotiation is protracted elsewhere, shall be communicated to you from time to time, as they become known to me; with whatever other information I possess or may receive, which may aid your deliberations on the great national interests committed to your charge.

TH. JEFFERSON.

WASHINGTON, December 3.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the negotiation depending between the United States and the government of Great-Britain, is proceeding in a spirit of friendship and accommodation, which promises a result of mutual advantage. Delays indeed have taken place, occasioned by the long illness, and subsequent death of the British minister charged with that duty. But the commissioners appointed by that government to resume the negotiation, have shewn every disposition to hasten its progress: it is however a work of time; as many arrangements are necessary to place our future harmony on stable grounds. In the mean-time, we find, by the communications of our plenipotentiaries, that a temporary suspension of the act of the last session, prohibiting certain importations, would, as a mark of candid disposition on our part, and of confidence in the temper and views with which they have been met, have a happy effect on its course. A step so friendly will afford further evidence that all our proceedings have flowed from views of justice and conciliation, and that we give them willingly that form which may best meet corresponding dispositions.

Add to this, that the same motives which produced the postponement of the act till the fifteenth of November last, are in favour of its further suspension: and as we have reason to hope that it may soon yield to arrangements of mutual consent and convenience, justice seems to require that the same measure may be dealt out to the few cases which may fall within its short course, as to all others preceding and following it. I cannot, therefore, but recommend the suspension of this act for a reasonable time, on considerations of justice, amity, and the public interests.

TH. JEFFERSON.

A correspondent at Washington, under date of the 4th, informs us, that, "The committee of the house of representatives, to whom had been referred the president's special message of yesterday, have this day reported a bill for the suspension of the non-importation act. It will be acted on to-morrow, and it will, beyond a doubt, be passed into a law."

Balt. Amer. Dec. 6.

The Rev. Mr. Elliott has been chosen Chaplain to the House of Representatives of the United States. First ballot Elliott 52, Laurie 50—second, E. 60, L. 42.

The Rev. Mr. Sayrs has been chosen Chaplain to the Senate.

Capt. Hufsey, who arrived at New-York on Wednesday last from Bonair, says that Miranda was still at Barbadoes without the hope of succeeding in his expedition.

## Legislature of Maryland.

### SKETCH OF PROCEEDINGS.

#### HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

THURSDAY, December 4, 1806.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

A petition from Henry Peters, of the city of Baltimore, praying to be divorced from his wife, and a petition from John C. Bond, of Harford county, praying to be released from the additional 9 per cent. imposed by law, were severally preferred, read, and referred.

Mr. Biggs delivers a report on the petition of Nicholas Leaman, in his favour; which was read.

Mr. Kerr delivers a report on the petition of James Laurence, in his favour; which was read.

On motion, the question was put, That leave be given to bring in a bill to alter, change and abolish, that part of the constitution which gives a justice of the peace the privilege of being eligible as a senator, delegate, or member of the council? Determined in the negative—yeas 18, nays 35.

The bill to confirm and make valid certain proceedings of the orphans courts in different counties of this state, or the justices thereof, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. J. Brown delivers a bill, entitled, An act relating to public roads in Queen-Anne's county; which was read.

The report on the executive communications relative to the bank stock, was read the second time, and the resolutions therein contained, assented to.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to provide for recording certain papers in the register's office of Saint-Mary's county, endorsed "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. And a memorial from Samuel Chase, praying that his bond may be credited with certain sums of money; which was read and referred.

A petition from the commissioners and inhabitants of Eastern and Talbot county, praying that the same made by J. Needles may be confirmed and placed under the jurisdiction of said commissioners, and a petition from Sarah Gray, of Montgomery county, praying to be supported out of the poor-house, were severally preferred, read, and referred.

The amendment to the bill authorising the justices of the orphans courts to take sheriffs bonds, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house agree to the same? Determined in the negative.

The bill to appoint and authorise commissioners to review and lay out the road therein mentioned in Harford county, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Street delivers the bill to regulate and discipline the militia of this state, as amended; which was read.

Ordered, That the same have a second reading on Tuesday next.

The clerk of the senate delivers the supplement to the act to lay out and open a public road in Hopkins's Neck, in Talbot county, and the bill authorising James Cooke, late sheriff and collector of St. Mary's county, to complete his collection, severally endorsed "will pass with the proposed amendments;" which amendments were agreed to, and the bills ordered to be engrossed. And a memorial from Samuel Chase, stating his claim as trustee for the recovery of the bank stock, and proposing to leave the justice of the same to the decision of the chancellor, or others, who may be appointed by the legislature; which was read and referred.

Ordered, That Mr. Gale and Mr. Bruce be added to the committee appointed on the memorial of Samuel Chase.

The following message was read and agreed to:

We return the bill, entitled, An act authorising the justices of the orphans courts to take sheriffs bonds, after having dissented to the amendment proposed by you. We are still of opinion, that the manner of taking these bonds should be as uniform as possible, which object would be defeated by adopting the amendment; and while we are not disposed to lessen the powers already vested in the judges of the county courts, we apprehend the instances in which they would be applied to on this subject would be very rare, and that the whole duty, from convenience and expediency, would devolve on the justices of the orphans court, who would be the better judges of the competency of the security offered for the due performance of the duties of the sheriffs respectively.

If you should be of opinion with us, as to the preference of taking the bonds by the justices of the orphans court, we beg leave to suggest, that an amendment proposed by you, giving them the exclusive power, would pass this house, rather than the present inconveniences should be longer submitted to. We therefore solicit a reconsideration of the subject, in expectation that our wishes may be gratified in the passage of the bill, either without insisting on your amendment, or with such a modification as we have suggested.

A petition from Margaret Wilton, of Montgomery county, praying that she and her children may be supported out of the poor-house, was preferred, read, and referred.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, December 5, 1806.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill authorising the justices of the orphans courts to take sheriffs bonds, and the message relative thereto, were sent to the senate.

Leave given to bring in a supplement to the act for the advancement of justice, and a bill to compel justices of the peace to take cognizance of persons retailing spirituous liquors without licence: in the recess of court, and for other purposes.

Mr. Street delivers a report on the petition of John C. Bond, in his favour; which was read.

A petition from Thomas Butt, of Prince-George's county, praying the levy court may be directed to levy money for his support, was preferred, read, and referred.

The supplement to the act to alter the mode of collecting the county tax in Harford county, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The following message was read:

Believing it to be expedient that the several parts of the constitution of this state should be collected into one body, and brought into one entire view, and hoping it may meet with your approbation, we have therefore thought proper to appoint Mr. —, Mr. —, and Mr. —, to join such gentlemen as shall be named by you, to compose a joint committee for that purpose.

Mr. Chapman, Mr. Shaaff and Mr. Sudler, were appointed, by ballot, a committee for the above purpose, and the message was agreed to and sent to the senate.

The message from the senate relative to the appointment of a senator in the senate of the United States, was read the second time and agreed to.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Montgomery county, praying a certain road may be laid out, in virtue of a former act of assembly, was preferred, read, and referred.

The following message was agreed to, and sent to the senate:

We have agreed to your message and resolution of the 3d instant, and propose immediately to go into the election of a senator to represent this state in the congress of the United States after the third day of March next, until the 4th day of March, 1815. Philip Reed and Richard H. Earle, Esquires, are put in nomination by the senate, and we have appointed Mr. Little and Mr. Gale to join such gentlemen as may be named by you, to count the ballots.

Mr. Bowles delivers a bill, entitled, An act to enable the levy court of Washington county to alter and change the direction of a road therein mentioned; which was read.

The following resolution was read:

Whereas an opinion has been expressed by both houses of the legislature, that the business of the session can well be brought to a close by the fifteenth instant, so as to enable the house to ride by that time; therefore, Resolved by the house of delegates, that no bill of a public nature shall be reported to this house after Tuesday next, of which there shall not have been leave granted to bring in the same; and that this house will not receive, nor act upon, any business of a private or local nature, which shall not be received before Wednesday next, unless upon very urgent circumstances may require the interposition of this legislature.

Mr. Little delivers a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Samuel Jones, of the city of Baltimore; which was read.

The bill for the relief of James Cruikshanks, of Kent county, and the bill authorising a lottery for raising a sum of money for the rector and vestry of St. Thomas's parish, in Baltimore county, were severally read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The bill supplementary to the act to incorporate the stockholders in the Union Bank of Maryland, was read the second time, and the question put, Shall the said bill pass? Resolved in the affirmative, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Chapman delivers a report on the petition of John Boudy, in his favour; which was read.

The clerk of the senate delivers the further additional supplement to the act to regulate the inspection of tobacco, endorsed "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. And the following message:

We have received your message of this morning, and agree to proceed immediately to the election of a senator to represent this state in the senate of the United States, and have appointed Mr. Williams and Mr. Partridge to join the gentlemen named by you to examine the ballots. No person is put in nomination by the senate in addition to those named in your message.

Which was read.

The house proceeded to ballot for a senator in the congress of the United States; and upon examining the ballots it appeared, that Philip Reed was elected; and he was declared to be a senator to represent this state in the congress of the United States.

A petition from Thomas Bailey, late sheriff and collector of Baltimore county, praying a further time to complete his collection, was preferred, read, and referred.

The report on the petition of John Boudy was read the second time, and the resolution therein contained assented to.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county, praying that the road leading from Richard Higgins's farm to the head of South river may be changed, was preferred, read, and referred.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY, December 6, 1806.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. B. Hodges appeared in the house.

The resolution in favour of John Boudy was sent to the senate.